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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern optication No PCT/US2004/040291

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C04B35/5831 C04B35/5835 C04B35/628 B23B27/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 CO4B B23B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X JP 08 197306 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORP) 1-20 6 August 1996 (1996-08-06) Sample 1. paragraph '0005!; example 1; table 1 X JP 01 122971 A (TOSHIBA TUNGALOY CO LTD) 1-17 16 May 1989 (1989-05-16) Compositions: table 1, upper half, samples 3 & 4, bottom half, samples 2 & 3. Sintering conditions: page 413, last paragraph (40{60 kb, 1300-1600°C). X JP 01 122970 A (TOSHIBA TUNGALOY CO LTD) 1 - 1716 May 1989 (1989-05-16) Compositions: table 1, upper half, samples 3 & 4, bottom half, sample 4. Sintering conditions: Last line of right column, page 407 ($40\{60 \text{ kb}, 1300-1600^{\circ}\text{C}\}$). X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 29 March 2005 05/04/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Raming, T

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